

REMARKS

The Examiner's attention to the present application is noted with appreciation, as is his indication that claims 8 and 9 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims.

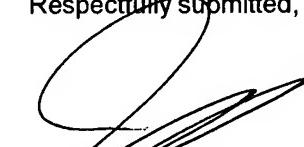
The Examiner rejected claims 1-7 and 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kasper et al. This rejection is traversed. Attached herewith is a Declaration by Applicant showing that Applicant's invention was reduced to practice prior to the February 7, 2004 publication date of the PCT application for the single reference cited against Applicant. Note that this is the applicable § 102 date because the PCT publication was not in English, pursuant to § 102(e). Accordingly, § 102(a) applies to the PCT publication date in that the present application claims priority to a provisional application filed July 29, 2002. Because Applicant's Declaration shows that Applicant's invention was actually reduced to practice prior to the publication date of the Kasper et al. PCT application, allowance of Applicant's claims 1-13 is respectfully requested.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner believes that prosecution of this application might be expedited by discussion of the issues, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at the telephone number listed below.

Also being filed herewith is a Petition for Extension of Time to February 7, 2005, with the appropriate fee. Authorization is given to charge payment of any additional fees required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Acct. 13-4213. A duplicate of the Petition paper is enclosed for accounting purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


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